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portant journal in spite of the invasion of his city and country, and under circumstances that must be most trying. *Isis* was founded in 1913, its purpose being to consider the historical development of all the various human disciplines, a field not covered by any other publication. It appears about four times a year, is edited in a dignified and thoroughly scholarly manner, and takes rank with the best scientific periodicals of the day. Its articles appear in the four languages of the various international congresses, but the editorial matter is in French. It should have place in every general reading room, and particularly in the libraries of all institutions of higher learning.

It occurs to me that this is the time of all times to encourage a Belgian scholar of international standing, struggling to continue so important a publication. I have been glad to send my own subscription in advance, and I shall be glad to forward such subscriptions as may be sent to me. The price is \$3 a year (\$6 for Vol. I.) and if one should wish the journal from the beginning, \$12 would pay for the back numbers and one year in advance.

I undertake this work merely to help a worthy cause, but without any personal guarantee as to the effect of the war upon the enterprise. I have been glad to send my own money, and I hope others will join in the worthy cause.

DAVID EUGENE SMITH

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#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Anesthesia.* By JAMES TAYLOR GWATHMEY, M.D., and CHARLES BASKERVILLE, Ph.D., F.C.S. New York and London, D. Appleton and Co. 1914. Pp. xxxii + 945. Illustrated.

The subject of anesthesia in surgical operations has attracted the attention of medical men and others for three quarters of a century. Between 1840 and 1850 the successful use of ether was introduced in this country, and of chloroform in Great Britain. Although other substances were soon after recommended for general anesthesia, some of

which came into limited use, these two well-known liquids have remained the standard agencies for the production of insensibility to pain in operations practically down to the present time.

In recent years, however, there has been a widening of the field, largely because of new discoveries and the introduction of local anesthetics to supplant, in many cases, the earlier ones with profound general effects. A voluminous literature has been accumulating, not only in the way of papers, but also in the form of longer treatises. Most of this has been of interest to medical men only and has been written for those engaged in some field of medical or surgical work.

But in this country the whole subject of anesthesia has become of more popular interest, as witness the discussions in the monthly magazines, and even in the daily press, on the subject of the "twilight sleep" in its relations to midwifery. At the present time the newspapers bring us many accounts of the difficulties of surgery on the European battlefields, where the supply of ether and chloroform is sometimes insufficient for the needs. Medical men and laymen alike have been ready for a discussion of the whole subject of anesthesia along somewhat broader lines than obtained in the past literature, and such a discussion is found in the work which is the subject of this review. The authors bring a wide range of experience to the task. One of them is a specialist who has done much to perfect the technique of the administration of certain anesthetics, and who has been one of the foremost advocates of the proposition that the administration of an anesthetic is in itself an operation calling for special skill and experience, and which should not be turned over to any interne or advanced student who happens to be at hand. The other author is one of our well-known chemists who has had an extended and unique experience in the preparation and the study of the properties of a group of pure anesthetics. He is the author of a number of valuable articles on the subject of pure anesthetics.

The work, therefore, brings evidence of

first-hand knowledge, trustworthy in detail. Besides this the recorded experience of prominent writers is condensed and presented in such a way as to make the book a reference work covering a wide range of topics, in which the historical treatment is a prominent feature. The literature references are very full and sufficient to afford the specialist a groundwork for following up the details of any given topic.

As much of the work in modern anesthesia is of a somewhat special character which could not be well covered by one or two writers, the authors have wisely called on men especially expert in their lines to contribute certain chapters. In this way anesthesia by colonic absorption, local anesthesia, intravenous anesthesia and spinal analgesia and spinal anesthesia have been specially treated. Some of these topics, the last one for example, have been much debated and the authors have presented the views of the opponents as well as the friends of the innovations. It can not be said that a partisan attitude appears markedly anywhere in the book. There are also chapters on the application of hypnotism and mental suggestion to the production of anesthesia, and one on the medico-legal status of the anesthetist. The reviewer will not attempt to pass on the merits of these more special discussions. They are referred to in order to give an idea of the range of topics covered in the work.

Of more special interest to chemists and the general scientist are the chapters giving lists of all the anesthetics which have been in use, with extended notes on the properties and behavior of the more important ones. The discussions on the chemistry of ether and chloroform are especially full. Here we find a good summary of the work of Dr. Baskerville. There can be no question of the value of this part of the work to any one who wishes to become familiar with the chemical phases of the subject of anesthetics.

While the book, as a whole, will find its most numerous readers among medical men, it may be cordially recommended to the general scientific student who may be interested in

securing a comprehensive view of the important field.

J. H. LONG

*Food Products.* By HENRY C. SHERMAN, Ph.D., Professor of Food Chemistry, Columbia University. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1914. Pp. 594. Price, \$2.25.

The author's purpose is stated as follows: "In this volume it is sought to incorporate in the subject-matter of a general study of foods the results of these recent advances which heretofore have been too widely scattered to be readily accessible." The author's experience as a teacher has shown him how difficult it is to find the material one needs for a comprehensive study of foods. He has rendered important service to his fellow teachers and to all who are interested in the scientific study of foods in putting into one book so much valuable material for reference.

His discussion of the nutritive value and place in the diet of the different types of food is, as one would expect of the author of "Food and Nutrition," a particularly strong, clear and authoritative interpretation of the recent advances in the study of nutrition.

The reviewer feels that the value of the material as a text book would be improved by placing the chapter on Food Legislation in the appendix along with the Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act. She also suggests that Chapter IX. should precede Chapter VIII., or at least that the general statements concerning vegetables should be given before the discussion of any part of the group. It seems a little strange, with the author's leaning toward chemistry, that he does not suggest a chemical classification of vegetables in addition to the others given. One wonders why the discussion of the starches was not followed directly by that of the sugars instead of placing fats and oils between. However, the arrangement of material, concerning which there is a great difference of opinion, is a very minor matter in comparison with the advantage of having at hand for reference so admirable a book.

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